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*Sen Ford* Approved For Release 2002/01/10 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000100110016-8

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UPI-106

(RFE)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TODAY APPROVED A BILL AUTHORIZING \$38.5 MILLION TO FINANCE RADIO FREE EUROPE (RFE) AND RADIO LIBERTY (RL) FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

THE VOTE WAS 10-3. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., AND DEMOCRATIC SENS. MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT., AND STUART SYMINGTON, MO., VOTED AGAINST IT.

IN HEARINGS EARLIER TODAY, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE U. ALEXIS JOHNSON SAID THE TWO RADIOS "SERVE THE ROLE OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS" WHICH IS DENIED TO THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EAST EUROPE.

BUT FULBRIGHT ARGUED THAT THE UNITED STATES "IS NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF ITS ALLIES WHICH HAVE JUST AS RIGID A CENSORSHIP." HE MENTIONED GREECE AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

DURING THE HEARINGS WHICH PRECEDED THE VOTE ON THE BILL, JOHNSON VIGOROUSLY DENIED A CHARGE WHICH FULBRIGHT MADE YESTERDAY, TO THE EFFECT THAT SEVERAL CIA EMPLOYEES REMAIN IN THE OFFICES OF THE TWO RADIOS.

"AS OF TODAY, I ASSERT THERE ARE NO U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE OPERATIONS OF EITHER RADIO," HE SAID.

"IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THERE WERE SEVERAL CIA PERSONNEL," FULBRIGHT SAID. "THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OTHER PAYROLLS VERY RECENTLY."

6/7--GE124P

Comment: Thuermer, Maury and CSDO have copies.